

JESSENE LEE

University of Toronto
Department of Political Science

jesslene.lee@mail.utoronto.ca
<https://jesslenelee.com>

EDUCATION

University of Toronto

Ph.D. Candidate, Political Science, *Ongoing*
Fields: International Relations, Comparative Politics

National University of Singapore

Master of Social Sciences, Political Science
Bachelor of Social Sciences, Political Science

ACADEMIC AFFILIATIONS

Lee Kuan Yew School of Public Policy, National University of Singapore

Young NUS Fellow, 2024-2026

Asia Competitiveness Institute, Lee Kuan Yew School of Public Policy, National University of Singapore

Research Affiliate, 2022 -

PUBLICATIONS

3. Ong, Lynette H., Huihua Nie and **Jesslene Lee**. *Outsourcing Surveillance: Online Opinion Management in China*. Cambridge University Press. *Forthcoming*.
2. **Lee, Jesslene** and Soo Yeon Kim. "Contesting the Liberal Script? The AIIB and the World Bank in Development Finance". *International Affairs* 101, no. 5 (September 2025): 1655-1677. <https://doi.org/10.1093/ia/iaaf148>.
1. **Lee, Jesslene**. "Emerging Divergence: Distinct Data Regulatory Models Around the World." In *Data Governance and the Digital Economy in Asia: Harmonizing Cross-Border Data Flows*, edited by Paul Cheung, Liu Jingting and Ulrike Sengstschmid. Routledge, 2024.

WORKING PAPERS

5. "Hierarchy in Complexity: PTAs and the Regime Complex in Intellectual Property Rights", with Manfred Elsig, Soo Yeon Kim and Andrew Lugg
4. "Connecting Regimes: Preferential Trade Agreements and the Management of the Intellectual Property Rights Regime", with Manfred Elsig, Soo Yeon Kim and Andrew Lugg (Under Review)
3. "Glass Ceilings, Glass Walls, and Glass Cliffs: Gender Bias in the Leadership of International Organizations", with Phillip Lipsky and Taylor Jackson

2. “Diffusion of Digital Trade Provisions: New Rule-makers in Global Trade Governance?”
1. “Membership and its Benefits: Vote Shares and Voting Power in the Asian Infrastructure Investment Bank”, with Soo Yeon Kim

OPINION, COMMENTARY, AND POLICY PAPERS

10. **Lee, Jesslene** and Paul Cheung. “Flexible Multilateralism for a World in Flux” *The Business Times*. February 10, 2026. [PDF]
9. **Lee, Jesslene**. “RCEP Was a Major Breakthrough, But It Still Needs Work” *The Diplomat*. January 28, 2026. [PDF]
8. **Lee, Jesslene** and Paul Cheung. “The Lasting Impact of FTAs Amid Global Trade Shocks” *The Business Times*. July 18, 2025. [PDF] [Additional coverage (1) (2)]
7. **Lee, Jesslene**. “Another Digital Trade Deal, What’s the Big Deal?” *The Business Times*. August 8, 2024. [PDF]
6. Banh Thi Hang, **Jesslene Lee**, and Liu Jingting. “Is ASEAN Truly a Winner in Globalisation 2.0?” *The Business Times*. March 20, 2024. [PDF]
5. **Lee, Jesslene**. “ASEAN’s Window of Opportunity to Write its own Data Rules.” *The Business Times*. October 3, 2023. [PDF] [Additional coverage]
4. **Lee, Jesslene**. “ASEAN’s Window of Opportunity for Shaping Global Data Governance.” *The Diplomat*. September 15, 2023. [PDF]
3. **Lee, Jesslene**. “Data Regulation through Trade Agreements: Assessing the Emergence of Distinct Regulatory Regimes.” 2023. *Asia Competitiveness Institute Research Paper Series*.
2. **Lee, Jesslene**, Banh Thi Hang and Tan Kway Guan. “Unlocking Opportunities: Singapore as a Standard-maker in Digital Trade Governance.” *The Business Times*. June 8, 2023. [PDF]
1. **Lee, Jesslene**, Banh Thi Hang and Tan Kway Guan. “Comparative Analysis of Digital Trade Provisions: Challenges and Lessons for Singapore.” 2023. *Asia Competitiveness Institute Research Paper Series*.

CONFERENCE AND PAPER PRESENTATIONS

- | | |
|------|---|
| 2026 | International Studies Association Annual (ISA) Convention |
| 2025 | Freie Universität Berlin Cluster of Excellence ‘Contestations of the Liberal Script in Regional Organizations in the Global South and the Global North’ Authors’ Conference |
| 2025 | APSA Political Networks (PolNet) Conference |
| 2025 | American Political Science Association (APSA) Annual Meeting |
| 2025 | Pacific International Politics Conference (PIPC), Waseda University, Tokyo, Japan |
| 2025 | ‘Individuals in International Policy’ Workshop, LBJ School of Public Affairs, The University of Texas at Austin |
| 2025 | Research Visit to World Trade Institute, Bern, Switzerland |

2025	International Studies Association Annual (ISA) Convention
2025	The Political Economy of International Organization (PEIO) Annual Conference
2024	International Political Economy Society (IPES) Conference
2024	American Political Science Association (APSA) Annual Meeting
2024	Pacific International Politics Conference (PIPC), Korea University, Seoul, Korea
2024	APSA Political Networks (PolNet) Conference
2024	Workshop on ‘Contemporary Challenges to Trade and Trade Policy’, University of Salzburg
2024	International Studies Association Annual (ISA) Convention
2024	Lee Kuan Yew School of Public Policy, Asia Competitiveness Institute, Data and Policy Analytics Seminar Series
2024	Freie Universität Berlin Cluster of Excellence ‘Contestations of the Liberal Scripts’ (SCRIPTS) Session on East Asia
2023	American Political Science Association (APSA) Annual Meeting
2023	‘Asia in International Financial Affairs’ Workshop, Goethe University Frankfurt
2023	Pacific International Politics Conference (PIPC)
2023	Midwest Political Science Association (MPSA) Convention
2023	International Studies Association Annual (ISA) Convention
2022	Freie Universität Berlin Cluster of Excellence “Contestations of the Liberal Scripts” (SCRIPTS) Regional Conference: Liberal Script(s) — Asian Versions and Contestations of a Concept
2021	Singapore Political Economy Seminar, ESSEC Singapore
2020	The Political Economy of International Organization (PEIO) Annual Conference

GRANTS, AWARDS, AND FELLOWSHIPS

2025	American Political Science Association (APSA) International Collaboration Section Travel Grant
2025	American Political Science Association (APSA) Graduate Student Support Member Grant
2024 - 2026	National University of Singapore Development Grant
2023 - 2025	Singapore Social Science Research Council Graduate Research Fellowship
2024	International Studies Association (ISA) Travel Grant
2023	American Political Science Association (APSA) First Generation Scholar Travel Grant
2023 - 2025	University of Toronto Department Conference Travel Awards
2021 -	University of Toronto Fellowship
2021	University of Toronto Department of Political Science Graduate Program Recruitment Award

RESEARCH AND PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE

Aug 2021 -	Research Assistant For Professor Phillip Lipsy Department of Political Science, University of Toronto
Aug 2021 - Dec 2024	Research Assistant For Professor Soo Yeon Kim Department of Political Science, National University of Singapore
Aug 2018 - Aug 2020	Teaching Fellow Department of Political Science, National University of Singapore
Jan 2018 - Dec 2018	Research Assistant Center for Social Development Asia, Singapore
Jan 2018 - Dec 2018	Research Assistant Asia Center for Social Entrepreneurship and Philanthropy, Singapore
Jan 2017 - Dec 2017	Research Assistant For Professor Sung Eun Kim Department of Political Science, National University of Singapore
Jan 2016 - Dec 2016	Research Assistant Housing Development Board, Singapore
Jan 2016 - Dec 2016	Research Assistant Ministry of Social and Family Development, Singapore

TEACHING EXPERIENCE

University of Toronto, Teaching Assistant

2025, 2024, 2023, 2022	Introduction to Quantitative Reasoning (for Kenichi Ariga, Olga Chyzh)
2025, 2023	Scarcity, Sustainability, and the Future of International Relations (for Mark Nieman)
2024, 2023, 2022	Statistics for Political Scientists (Graduate-level course, for Olga Chyzh, Michael J. Donnelly, Daniel Rubenson)
2024	Qualitative Methods (for Linda White)
2022, 2021	Introduction to International Relations (for Seva Gunitsky)

National University of Singapore, Teaching Fellow

Awarded Graduate Students' Teaching Award (2 of 2 eligible semesters)

2021, 2020, 2019	International Political Economy (for Soo Yeon Kim)
2021	Political Inquiry (for Chonghyun Choi)
2020, 2019	Chinese Politics (for Chen An)
2020	Public Administration in Singapore (for Shamsul Haque)
2019	Southeast Asian Politics (for Deepak Nair)
2019	International Security (for Chong Ja Ian)
2019, 2018	Introduction to Politics (for Terence Lee)

SERVICE

Reviewer

International Studies Quarterly, Journal of Southeast Asian Economies, Review of International Organizations, World Development, World Trade Review

Service to the University

2025 - 2026	Co-convener, Inaugural Quantitative Methods Research Cluster Conference, University of Toronto
2023 - 2026	Co-convener, Quantitative Methods Research Cluster, University of Toronto
2022	Judge, Singapore Undergraduate Policy Conference, National University of Singapore
2022	Instructor, Introduction to Data Analysis and Visualization in R Short Course, National University of Singapore
2020 - 2021	Founding Head, National University of Singapore Political Science Graduate Student Conference

Service to the International Graduate Student Community

2021 - 2023	Editor-in-Chief, International Association of Political Science Students (IAPSS) Journal (Peer-reviewed)
2021	Co-Chair, Yale European Studies Graduate Fellows Conference, Yale University
2018	Deputy Head, International Association of Political Science (IAPSS) Students Academic Convention

EXTRA TRAINING

2023 **IPSA-NUS Methods School**

Causal Mediation Analysis, Experimental Method

2019 **ECPR Methods School**

Times Series Analysis, Causal Analysis based on Observational Data, Quantitative Text Analysis, Advanced Regression Analysis

IPSA-NUS Methods School

Network Analysis

SKILLS

R, Python, L^AT_EX